

REMARKS

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 9-14, 16-18, 20-26, and 28-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yao (US patent 6424984). Claim 1, as amended, recites a bookmark having an integrated electronic timer circuit for tracking reading times for individuals comprising a substrate and a header integral with the substrate. The header includes a time display and control panel. The time display has two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout. The control panel has a plurality of control buttons for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction. An electronic timer circuit is housed within the header for receiving commands from the control panel and providing a timer signal to the time display. The electronic timer circuit includes (a) an oscillator for generating a clock signal, (b) a timer receiving the clock signal to count elapsed time, the timer being configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times, (c) a memory circuit coupled to the timer for storing the incremental and cumulative times, (d) a control interface having an input coupled to the control panel on the header and an output coupled to the timer, wherein the control interface receives commands to start time and stop time and reverse counting direction, (e) an audible alarm coupled to the timer for announcing a time sequence, and (f) a display interface having an input coupled to the timer and an output coupled to the time display on the header.

The Yao reference does not teach or suggest a time display having two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout. Yao is an electronic dictionary integrated with a bookmark. Yao makes no mention of tracking time or

recording time or displaying time. Yao further does not teach or suggest a control panel having plurality of control buttons for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction. Yao never considers the need to start time, stop time, or reverse counting direction.

Moreover, the Yao reference does not teach or suggest any electronic timer circuit housed within the header for receiving commands from the control panel and providing a timer signal to the time display. More specifically, Yao certainly does not disclose an electronic timer circuit having an oscillator, a timer, a memory circuit, a control interface, an audible alarm, and a display interface, each having the features recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to patentably distinguish over the Yao reference. Claims 3-8 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim. Claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled.

With respect to claim 10, the claim has been amended to recite a bookmark having a substrate portion and a header portion integral with the substrate portion. The header portion comprises a time display having two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout. A control panel has a plurality of control buttons for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction. An electronic timer has (a) an oscillator for generating a clock signal, (b) a timer receiving the clock signal to count elapsed time, the timer being configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times, (c) a memory circuit coupled to the timer for storing the incremental and cumulative times, (d) a control interface having an input coupled to the control panel on the header and an output

coupled to the timer, wherein the control interface receives commands to start time and stop time and reverse counting direction, (e) an audible alarm coupled to the timer for announcing a time sequence, and (f) a display interface having an input coupled to the timer and an output coupled to the time display on the header.

The Yao reference does not teach or suggest a time display having two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout. Yao is an electronic dictionary integrated with a bookmark. Yao makes no mention of tracking time or recording time or displaying time. Yao further does not teach or suggest a control panel having plurality of control buttons for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction. Yao never considers the need to start time, stop time, or reverse counting direction. Moreover, the Yao reference does not disclose any electronic timer circuit having an oscillator, a timer, a memory circuit, a control interface, an audible alarm, and a display interface, each having the features recited in claim 10.

Accordingly, claim 10 is believed to patentably distinguish over the Yao reference. Claims 12-15 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

Claims 11 and 16-23 have been cancelled.

With respect to claim 24, the claim has been amended to recite a method of making a bookmark with an integrated electronic timer comprising the steps of forming a substrate, forming a header integral with the substrate, wherein the header includes a cavity, forming a time display on the header, the time display having two digits for a first time readout and two digits

for a second time readout, forming a control panel on the header, the control panel having a plurality of control buttons for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction, disposing an electronic timer within the cavity of the header, the electronic timer including (a) an oscillator for generating a clock signal, (b) a timer receiving the clock signal to count elapsed time, the timer being configurable to track incremental times and cumulative times, (c) a memory circuit coupled to the timer for storing the incremental and cumulative times, (d) a control interface having an input coupled to the control panel on the header and an output coupled to the timer, wherein the control interface receives commands to start time and stop time and reverse counting direction, and (e) a display interface having an input coupled to the timer, and electrically coupling an output of the time display interface of the electronic timer to the time display on the header.

The Yao reference does not teach or suggest the step of forming a time display on the header having two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout. Yao is an electronic dictionary integrated with a bookmark. Yao makes no mention of tracking time or recording time or displaying time. Yao further does not teach or suggest the step of forming a control panel on the header having a plurality of control buttons for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction. Yao never considers the need to start time, stop time, or reverse counting direction. Moreover, the Yao reference does not disclose the step of disposing an electronic timer within the cavity of the header, wherein the electronic timer has an oscillator, a timer, a memory circuit, a control

interface, an audible alarm, and a display interface, each having the features recited in claim 24.

Accordingly, claim 24 is believed to patentably distinguish over the Yao reference. Claims 25-28 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

With respect to claim 33, the claim has been amended to recite a marking device for marking a book and tracking reading time comprising a bookmark having an interior housing. An electronic timer circuit is disposed within the interior housing of the bookmark for counting a count value. The electronic timer circuit includes (a) an oscillator for generating a clock signal, (b) a timer receiving the clock signal to count elapsed time, (c) a control interface having an input and having an output coupled to the timer, and (d) a display interface having an input coupled to the timer. A control panel is disposed on the bookmark for controlling the electronic timer. The control panel has a plurality of control buttons coupled to the input of the control interface for starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction. A time display is disposed on the bookmark and electrically coupled to an output of the display interface of the electronic timer for displaying the count value. The time display has two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout.

The Yao reference does not teach or suggest a time display having two digits for a first time readout and two digits for a second time readout. Yao is an electronic dictionary integrated with a bookmark. Yao makes no mention of tracking time or recording time or displaying time. Yao further does not teach or suggest a control panel having a plurality of control buttons for

starting time and stopping time and reversing counting direction. Yao never considers the need to start time, stop time, or reverse counting direction. Moreover, the Yao reference does not disclose an electronic timer within the cavity of the header, wherein the electronic timer has an oscillator, a timer, a control interface, and a display interface, each having the features recited in claim 33.

Accordingly, claim 33 is believed to patentably distinguish over the Yao reference. Claims 34-36 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 15, 19, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Yao in view of Bailie (US patent 2319436). The Office Action further rejects claims 6, 7, 15, 19, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Yao in view of Tanaka (US patent 5382053). The Office Action further rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Yao in view of Ho (US patent 6024043). The rejection to these dependent claims is considered moot in view of the amendments to the respective base claim.

Applicant(s) believe that all information and requirements for the application have been provided to the USPTO. If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of the Application, Applicant(s) invite the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

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Farinella et al.  
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due with this Response to U.S. PTO Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,  
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